

From: Jim Hillegass
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 1:57pm
Subject: Microsoft should be split

I'm Jim Hillegass, CEO of J. River, a 20 person software firm located in Minneapolis.

I believe that Microsoft has abused its power and should be split into an applications company and an OS company. I understand that the Justice Department has decided against this, but I want to express an opinion.

Here's why. Microsoft is big and, to please shareholders, must become still bigger and more profitable. There are no significant niches left in the software business where a company can make products without competing with Microsoft.

Competition with Microsoft would be fine IF the details of the OS were made available equally to software vendors like J. River and to a Microsoft applications company. As it stands, details on the OS are extremely hard to get.

I watched Microsoft destroy Wordperfect, Lotus, Netscape, and many smaller firms. The same thing is happening now with Real Networks, and the newest OS removes niches in zipping files, printing photos, and many other areas.

I would be happy to provide more detail.

Regards,

Jim Hillegass

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